

Eisenhower Turns Down Truman Offer; Plans to Use Military For Korea Trip

By ELTON C. FAY
WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower turned

Strike Halts UA Service

NEW YORK (AP)—A strike last night of 300 United Airlines flight engineers grounded the line's planes in the United States and Hawaii.
The walkout, termed a "quickie" strike by the airline, grew out of a 10-month-old pay dispute with the AFL Flight Engineers Association. The association said some Pacific Ocean flights were affected, but not the air lift to Korea.

today to the military to take him on his projected journey to the Korean War zone, politely declining President Truman's offer of the White House plane.
Eisenhower replied immediately after receiving Truman's somewhat laconic offer to put the luxurious four-engine plane at his disposal. "If you still desire to go to Korea."
The President-elect said any suitable military plane would do and that he would notify the Defense Department soon of his plans.

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There was no immediate explanation why Truman attached the "if you still desire to go" qualification to his offer. But Eisenhower's reply was definite assurance that he will go through with his campaign pledge. He said in an address on Oct. 24, "I shall go to Korea" to seek a way to an honorable conclusion of the war.
Defense Secretary Robert Lovett, Gen. Omar Bradley and other high officials of the Pentagon already have shaped tentative plans to take Eisenhower on his Korean journey.

The probability is the military will assign an officer to accompany him, if that is agreeable to Eisenhower. Although the officer probably will be of high rank, there was an impression that it will not be Bradley.

Although Eisenhower has been one of the nation's most famous soldiers, he no longer holds his five-star commission or any other direct connection with the Army. When he goes to Korea, presumably well before the inauguration on Jan. 20, he will be a private citizen—no longer a general and not yet the commander-in-chief.
In Korea, Eisenhower will come to grips with the first and perhaps most difficult question of his presidential term:
What to do about an unpopular war almost 28 months old, stalled on a heavily defended front, fought against an enemy with major supply sources outside the theater of combat, and supported by Russia, the potential major and powerful enemy of the United States?

Eisenhower, in his campaigning, made one proposal: assign an in-

creasing amount of the front-line fighting to troops of the South Koreans.
Beyond this, there exists an old and expensive question which figured in the controversy over the ousting of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from the Far East supreme command:
Should the United States turn to true strategic warfare in an attempt to destroy the Asiatic Communist war-waging ability and bomb supply centers and airfields in the Chinese homeland?

Truman and the State Department rebuffed any such thought, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff subsequently followed that up with explanation of the military impracticality of such an operation. However, the administration goes out of office next January and the terms of all but one member of the JCS expires next summer.
With the White House occupied by the general who in World War

I commanded more troops than any other American in history, the military has no doubt that the office of commander in chief will be a more directly active one than ever.

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